

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6758

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EG, UR

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT
ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT

1. ALL EGYPTIAN PAPERS SEPTEMBER 26 PROMINENTLY FEATURE
PRESIDENT FORD COMMENTS TO LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT US FEEL
"IMPLICITLY COMMITTED" TO DISCUSS PROVISION OF US MILITARY
EQUIPMENT AND ARMS TO EGYPT. PRESS TREATMENT IS ACCURATE
REFLECTION OF ENTHUSIASM THIS REPORT IS LIKELY TO ENGENDER
THROUGHOUT EGYPTIAN SOCIETY.

2. AKHBAR GIVES PRESIDENT FORD' COMMENTS BANNER HEADLINE,
WHILE AHARAM PROMINENTLY FEATURES STORY. ALL PAPERS POINT OUT
THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS COMMENTED THA, IN VIEW OF IMPASSE
WITH SOVIET UNION CONCERNING ARMS DELIVERIES, WESTERN SOURCES
OF ARMS FOR EGYPT ARE NECESSARY ON A PRIORITY BASIS. ALL
PAPERS ALLEGE STATE DEPARTMENT "ASTONISHMENT" AT FORD COMMENTS
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TO LA TIMES' CORRESPONDENT, BUT MENTION THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS CONCEDED THAT DISCUSSIONS ON ARMS WERE EXPECTED TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING VISIT OF PRESIDENT SADA TO US IN LATE OCTOBER.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE:

COMMENT: PRESIDENT SADAT HAS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED TO U.S. CONGRESSMEN AND OTHERS HIS DESIRE TO OBTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. AND HIS INTENTION TO MAKE "MODEST" REQUESTS AFTER SINAI II AGREEMENT CONCLUDED. THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT USG HAS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED EGYPT'S DESIRE FOR U.S. ARMS AND, COMING AS IT DOES FROM PRESIDENT FORD, IS CERTAIN TO EXCITE GOE ENTHUSIASM AND RAISE THEIR EXPECTATIONS THAT U.S. WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO REQUESTS.
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